

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

SENSITIVE

In the Matter of

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)
)
)CASE CLOSURES UNDER
ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY**GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT****I. INTRODUCTION**

The cases listed below have been evaluated under the Enforcement Priority System (EPS) and identified as either low priority, stale, or the statute of limitations has expired. This report is submitted in order to recommend that the Commission no longer pursue these cases for the reasons noted below.

II. CASES RECOMMENDED FOR CLOSURE**A. Cases Not Warranting Further Action Relative to Other Cases
Pending Before the Commission**

EPS was created to identify pending cases that, due to the length of their pendency in inactive status, or the lower priority of the issues raised in the matters relative to others presently pending before the Commission, do not warrant further expenditures of resources. Central Enforcement Docket ("CED") evaluates each incoming matter using Commission-approved criteria that result in a numerical rating for each case.

Closing these cases permits the Commission to focus its limited resources on more important cases presently pending in the Enforcement docket. Based upon this review, we have identified seven cases that do not warrant further action relative to other pending matters. We recommend that all seven cases be closed.¹ The attachments to this report contain a factual summary of each case recommended for closure, the case EPS rating, and the factors leading to the assignment of a low priority.

¹ These cases are: P-MUR 398 (*IUE, Local Union 323*); MUR 5102 (*Buffalo News*); MUR 5141 (*Moran for Congress*); MUR 5163 (*Meeks for Congress 2000*); MUR 5167 (*Citizens for O'Malley*); MUR 5184 (*Atlantic List Co.*); and MUR 5175 (*Citizens for Randy Borow*).

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B. Stale Cases

Effective enforcement relies upon the timely pursuit of complaints and referrals to ensure compliance with the law. Investigations concerning activity more remote in time usually require a greater commitment of resources primarily because the evidence of such activity becomes more difficult to develop as it ages. Focusing investigative efforts on more recent and more significant activity also has a more positive effect on the electoral process and the regulated community. EPS provides us with the means to identify those cases that remain unassigned for a significant period due to a lack of staff resources for an effective investigation. The utility of commencing an investigation declines as these types of cases age, until they reach a point when activation of such cases would not be an efficient use of the Commission's resources.

We have identified cases that have remained on the Central Enforcement Docket for a sufficient period of time to render them stale. We recommend that cases be closed³

³ These cases are: MUR 4757 (Republican National Committee)

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that the Commission exercise its prosecutorial discretion and close the cases listed below effective two weeks from the day that the Commission votes on the recommendations. Closing these cases as of this date will allow CED and the Legal Review Team the necessary time to prepare closing letters and case files for the public record.

1. Decline to open a MUR, close the file effective two weeks from the date of the Commission vote, and approve the appropriate letter in:

P-MUR 398

2. Take no action, close the file effective two weeks from the date of the Commission vote, and approve the appropriate letters in:

MUR 4757

MUR 5141

MUR 5175


MUR 5163

MUR 5184

MUR 5102

MUR 5167

7/6/01
Date


Lois G. Lerner
Acting General Counsel



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

MEMORANDUM

TO: Office of the Commission Secretary

FROM: Office of General Counsel *ACS*

DATE: July 6, 2001

SUBJECT: EPS Closing Report- General Counsel's Report

The attached is submitted as an Agenda document for the Commission Meeting of _____

Open Session _____

Closed Session _____

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